



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

February 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.
C/Ops

22 Mar

B

2.

3.
C/E&PS

23 Mar

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4.
DD/FBIS

3/23

G

5.
~~D/FBIS~~

6.

7.
PO/RA

3/23

Om

8.
SA/CD

3/24

Em

9. ~~D/FBIS~~
DC/Ops

28 MAR 1988

R

10.
C/AS

29 Mar

CD

11.
C/B&F/AS

PM

12.

13.

14.
C/AG

31/3

m

15.
Exec. Reg.



FBIS-4805-88
8 March 88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- February 1988

I. GENERAL

At a meeting at month's end with the Architect and Quantity Surveyor we were informed that it would be another 4-6 weeks before the Quantity Surveyor would be able to complete his analysis of the final settlement of the contract for our new bureau and the contractor's claim for an extension of time. As before, the continuing delay is the result of the contractor's inability or refusal to provide the Quantity Surveyor with detailed records to support his claims. The Quantity Surveyor has written the contractor that he cannot sit on the issue indefinitely; that the analysis will be wrapped up without his input to his detriment if he cannot or will not provide the required supporting documentation. Patience continues to be the byword.

The presidential campaign in Cyprus culminated this month with the replacement of two-term President Spiros Kiprianou by an independent candidate, Yeoryios Vasilou, backed by the communist party, AKEL. The incumbent was defeated in the first round elections on 14 February after weeks of intense electioneering across the island by the five contenders. In the run-off polling on the following Sunday, 21 February, Vasilou narrowly defeated conservative Glavkos Kliridhis. While Vasilou's platform promised greater flexibility in dealing with the Turkish Cypriot leadership to try to find a solution to the division of the island, the early statements by the newly elected president and ripostes from the Turkish side showed little sign of change in old entrenched positions on the issues. To cover the election, the bureau extended its operating hours on the nights of both votes to report on early returns until a clear trend was established. Then the bureau opened early the morning following both votes to provide the final results and to process victory and concession statements by the candidates.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Bureau coverage of disturbances in Soviet Armenia, and later Azerbaijan, from Baku and Yerevan radios elicited several expressions of appreciation from the BBC and Headquarters. The BBC Newsroom described the Nicosia coverage as a "goldmine" of unique coverage and indicated they were "especially appreciative of (Nicosia's) fast processing and filing." Newsroom head [redacted] specially acknowledged the contributions of Nicosia Chief Monitor [redacted] and Senior Persian Monitor [redacted] for stepping in quickly to take over unaccustomed duties monitoring and processing Russian and Armenian, respectively. Chief, Operations Group praised the bureau's "outstanding performance these past two weeks." The Wire Service also sent a message of appreciation.

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Maria was recalled to duty late on a day off on 24 February to start an open-speaker watch of Yerevan Domestic Service, following reports of demonstrations there, even though her Armenian capability was rusty and she had not previously used the language in monitoring work. Nicosia provided the only FBIS coverage of the primary sources, because the BBC could hear only a few International Service casts from the area and was unable for the first few days to contact its sole Armenian monitor, who was on leave. Nicosia also laid-on coverage of Yerevan International Service in Arabic, Persian, and Russian and increased its coverage of Baku Domestic Service in Azeri. Yerevan was recorded during Maria's off-duty hours for delayed checking. The BBC assisted by assuming coverage of Nicosia's two regular Tehran radio morning programs. This ad hoc coverage resulted in a steady stream of radio behavior FYI's, responses to BBC and Wire Service alerts on serious developments, and texting of many immediate-precedence reports and speeches from all of the languages being covered.

When it became clear that the crisis could be protracted, the BBC arranged to send its Armenian monitor -- old Kyrenia hand Mark Sarafyan -- to Nicosia on TDY. He arrived on 27 February and went to work immediately the next morning, allowing Maria to return to Persian coverage. He took over the schedule already established of live coverage for two periods each day, in the morning and evening, and also took over timely coverage of important items in the Azeri language. On this basis, intense coverage of Armenian developments continued into March.

2. The island of Cyprus, reputedly a favorite gathering place for terrorists but rarely the site of their operations, experienced two violent incidents this month. In the port city of Limassol three Palestinians -- later identified as senior Fatah officials -- were killed by a car bomb on 14 February. A PLO spokesman in Athens accused Israeli intelligence of carrying out the bombing, and the Israeli Embassy in Nicosia released a statement denying involvement, saying that "Israel has always fully respected the territorial integrity of Cyprus."

Israel was also accused of bombing the old car ferry "Sol Phryne" anchored off Limassol on 15 February. According to AFP, the boat had been purchased by the PLO for use as the "boat of return" which would carry Palestinian deportees on a well-publicized journey to Israel. Some reports claimed that the murdered Palestinians had been the ones who bought the ship. Initial Palestinian plans to sail from Athens had been abandoned when numerous shipping firms first agreed to lease vessels and then backed out. Following the bombing of the ship in Limassol, plans for the journey have been postponed "indefinitely."

Besides filing reports from media of the region on the "return" plans from Athens, the two explosions in Cyprus, and subsequent comment and speculation, bureau editors kept the embassy regional security officer apprised of developments in the two bombing incidents. The bombings also figured in a 23 February AG Trends article, which assessed the reaction to them among Palestinian leaders.

3. The kidnapping of Western hostages again dominated the news from Beirut in February. Three Westerners affiliated with UN organizations in Lebanon (previously immune to terrorist abductions) were seized in February. U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Richard Higgins, serving in Lebanon with the UN Truce Supervision Organization, was kidnapped on 17 February near Tyre. Intense searches throughout the remainder of the month by UNIFIL forces and the Amal Movement have failed to lead to his release. A number of organizations have claimed his abduction, with one of them, the Oppressed on Earth, claiming that he is a "CIA agent."

Earlier in the month, on 5 February, two Scandinavians working with the UN Relief and Works Agency were also kidnapped, but following their "interrogation" and "proven innocence" they were released on 1 March. With the ongoing trial of accused Lebanese terrorists in Duesseldorf, West Germans continue to be a target in Lebanon. On 11 February gunmen seized two Swedish journalists but released them two hours later when they determined that they were not Germans.

The bureau filed numerous short priority and immediate items during the month reporting kidnapping developments from various Lebanese radios and AFP.

4. Secretary of State George Shultz's shuttle to the Middle East from 25 February and continuing into March included two visits to Egypt. Intense interest in the U.S. initiative for the Middle East and its bearing on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's own peace proposals prompted extensive filing of comment and reaction throughout the visit, mainly from Cairo media, but also from Lebanese and Palestinian sources. The Shultz trip was preceded by an AG Trends item of 10 February that noted cautious Arab reaction to the new U.S. Middle East initiative, based partly on earlier Nicosia Bureau reports.

5. Tehran television's Networks I and II moved from the 63 degree East Intelsat to the 66 degree East Intelsat on 17 February without significantly changing bureau reception of the stations. Cruising of Network II programs determined that the station does not carry live relays of the Tehran Friday prayers, thus squelching hopes for a more timely source with good reception for the prayer and sermon broadcasts. A "Weekly Political Roundtable" program was located on Network II and provided two good multi-take items. However, the program has appeared only irregularly.

6. To assist Jordan Bureau's extensive survey and reporting on the new clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio, Nicosia's sole Hebrew monitor translated Hebrew announcements carried by the radio on 5 and 7 February. The announcements were recorded at Jordan Bureau and mailed to Nicosia for processing.

7. AG produced a Trends article on 24 February about the maneuvering between Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Iranian "conservatives" over the powers of the government based on Tehran reports filed by Nicosia and London Bureaus in February and earlier.

B. Lateral Services

At the request of the American Embassy in Beirut, the bureau texted a 25,000-word interview with Commander of the Lebanese Forces Samir Ja'Ja' published in Beirut's AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI. The Beirut embassy procured the edition of the magazine, which is not on regular coverage, and sent it to the bureau for processing.

C. Technical

1. Construction began on long-wire antennas in the bureau compound. Poles were placed for the installation of seven long-wire antennas.

2. After receiving new DES-type radios, all staff personnel have established radio communications with the embassy and the bureau from their homes. Mobile radios have been installed in two office vehicles. A third radio is to be installed in the bureau chief's car.

III. VISITS

1. Headquarters B&F Officer [] visited Nicosia from 12 to 18 February for familiarization. STAT

2. Tel Aviv Junior Editor [] visited the bureau on 19 February during private travel to Cyprus. STAT

3. Tel Aviv Bureau Chief [] stopped in Nicosia en route to Tel Aviv following his R&R in the United States. He visited the bureau on 24 February. STAT

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[]
Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for February 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	353020
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	140010
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	984

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10585.00 min.	22260.00 min.	118.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic	15080
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English	380
(Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic	0
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic	9290
(Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic	1450

CHINA

Beijing in Persian to Iran	340
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CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek	8810
Nicosia Television Service in Greek	2880
Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic	610
Nicosia BIRLIK in Turkish	1900
Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English	0
Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA TIS DHEFTERAS in Greek	0
Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek	500

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia I SIMERINI TIS DHEFTERAS in Greek			750
Nicosia I SIMERINI in Greek			520
Nicosia KHARAVYI DHEFTERAS in Greek			240
Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek			250
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS TIS DHEFTERAS in Greek			760
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			480
Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in English			9240
Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			660
Nicosia THE CYPRUS WEEKLY in English			0
EGYPT			
Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	0		
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	26050		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		66080	
Cairo MENA in English		8800	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		19010	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	17570		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			1950
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			4350
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			2080
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			0
Athens KIRIAKATIKOS RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			0
Athens TO VIMA TIS KIRIAKIS in Greek			0
IRAN			
Tehran International Service in Arabic	740		
Tehran International Service in Turkish	0		
Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	9090		
Tehran Television Service in English	240		
Tehran Television Service in Persian	14790		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	18230		
Beirut Domestic Service in English	370		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	24210		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English	130		
Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic	270		
Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic	3010		
Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic			27840
Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic			2080
Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic			10280
Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic			1540
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
LIBYA			
Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic	0		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	0		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
Istanbul BULVAR in Turkish			500
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			4810
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			860
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			9110
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			9960
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			2020
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	0		
Moscow in Greek to Greece	0		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	0		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian	860		
Yerevan International Service in Arabic	2320		
Yerevan International Service in Armenian	1190		
Yerevan International Service in Persian	1010		
Baku Domestic Service in Azeri	4010		
Baku Domestic Service in Russian	820		
Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek	0		
Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian	1020		
Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian	1680		